

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 24, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

Members Present: Warner Wirta, Dr. Robert Powless, Ron Boshey, Donna Ennis, Tony LaDeaux, Ricky DeFoe, Dr. Joy Dorscher, Renee Van Nett.

Excused Absent: Michele Gordon, Antoinette Dickenson.

Unexcused Absent: Bea Kitto

Staff present: Karen Olesen

Others present: See sign-in sheets.

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by Dr. Robert Powless, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the agenda with two additional items; 1.Spirit Mountain and 2. The barrels in Lake Superior under new business. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 20, 2008 MEETING:

Motion by Dr. Robert Powless, seconded by Donna Ennis, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2008 meeting with the addition that Renee Van Nett was present as a member. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- Minnesota Citizens Federation – Buddy Robinson

Buddy Robinson brought greetings on behalf of the Minnesota Citizens Federation. His organization is interested in collaborating with DAIP on some issues. Affordability of health care is one of those issues. Also, holding down the costs of electricity and promoting conservation of electricity. He has a plan that works on affordable prescriptions for people. Generally meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. The Federation would welcome anyone interested in attending their meetings. In December, they are having a potluck on Monday, the 15th, at 5:00 p.m., at the Trinity Lodge. Mr. Robinson left brochures and contact information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Indian Center Project Update and Discussion –

Maria Danz spoke on behalf of AICHO. The rest of the fundraising ideas are finalized. Fond du Lac committed rental assistance for 5 units. HRA and Hearth Connections are going to commit to rental assistance of additional 9 and 10 units respectively. The relocating of previous tenants is completed. The architect has done some redesigning of

the space and all of the housing units are now planned for the upper floors. The Indian Center will be located in the same building as the housing units due to costs savings and to keep the project moving forward. Donna Ennis asked about Trepanier Hall and was told that it isn't being considered at this time due to financing. The end of next year is when a waiting list for tenants will be created. Ron Boshey expressed concerns about HRA having control of who is able to rent, and Maria Danz said AICHO will be selecting tenants. Ricky DeFoe is disappointed that Trepanier Hall is off the table. Ellen O'Neil is also disappointed that AICHO isn't purchasing Trepanier Hall. The Hall will be available for rental on a case by case basis. Dr. Powless commended AICHO on their efforts. This project is only the second of it's kind in the nation according to Zeo LeBeau.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Work Plan Schedule for 2009 -

The 2009 Work Plan that was included in the mailing is a revision of the 2008 plan with new dates. Commissioners should come back next month prepared to share ideas for the 2009 Work Plan. Ron would like to see more involvement in Housing issues. Dr. Powless thinks education needs to be a priority, should be on the agenda early in the new year. Commissioners should think about how frequently topics should be discussed. This would also be a time to review the subcommittees of the DAIC.

Discussion of the Spirit Mountain Master Plan –

Warner Wirta stated the Master Plan doesn't mention the Indian Community. He would like the DAIC to write a letter to Spirit Mountain Authority Board to ask why. Warner also thinks it is important to have a member of the Indian community appointed to the Board, and would like a letter sent to Mayor Ness asking to have Ricky DeFoe appointed to serve. In 2006, there was a priority for an Indian heritage center to be included in the Spirit Mountain Plan. Warner asked that the earlier written materials be included in the record of the meeting, as well as a copy of his memo. Dr. Powless suggested 1854 Treaty liason be invited to attend the December meeting, as well as finding out process of Board appointments. Lisa Augustine had stated to the Commission that preservation of Indian culture would be part of vision or mission statement. Consensus was to ask Lisa Augustine to the December DAIC meeting. Ricky DeFoe related he has applied to be on the Spirit Mountain Board. There was a suggestion to review the City of Duluth Chapter 28A as it relates to both cultural and historic preservation.

Barrels in Lake Superior

Warner Wirta wanted to know what types of samples were going to be collected in the Red Cliff Band's study. Would it include looking at radioactivity? Donna Ennis said she will contact Jean Buffalo for this information. Dr. Powless felt it was important to talk to the City Council soon, as the Duluth water supply could become contaminated. Ron Boshey thought the Red Cliff Band could take the lead with Mayor Ness. Would the DAIC provide a per diem for mileage? Dr. Powless offered that he would provide gas money if Jean Buffalo was willing to come back to Duluth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

WarnerWirta said he was feeling frustrated and in need of support. He was encouraged to let DAIC members know how to help.

Ron Boshey related that he had called Fox 21 after they aired a story on the anniversary of Paul Antonich murder, and asked why stories on Natives that had been killed weren't aired. They said they were willing to put stories on the air. There was discussion on forming a "media" subcommittee.

Tony LeDeaux noted that last month's minutes mentioned Ilana Luna was not aware of the desire to have a training in Duluth, and that he hadn't discussed this with her because he was waiting until there was a meeting with Mayor.

Ricky DeFoe had attended a four day session in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Civilian Review Board, and was very impressed. He cautioned that solidarity is diminishing, even within DAIC. It is important to have a balance between community and police department concerns.

Donna Ennis added that she had been thinking about the merit of expanding the Review Board subcommittee to include three African American representatives. It was suggested that subcommittees are reviewed at the January, and the Commission could talk about this then.

MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

Monday December 15, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., Duluth City Hall, Room 402, 4th Floor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Donna Ennis adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.